Bangor Me. Nov 9. 1863.

My dear Mrs Garrison:

136

I thank you for the invitation to attend the approaching Antislavery Meeting in Philadelphia. I cannot say how glad I should be to accept it. I was not old enough, if I had been so inclined, to share in the honor of helping organize your Society, but for the last fifteen years, I have been so thoroly in sympathy with its objects, that I should like to share in your rejoicings next week, nor the prospect that your work is so nearly complete, as an Antislavery Society. I must forgo that pleasure however.

In 1833, you & your Coädjutors gathered in Philadelphia to devise measures looking to the overthrow of Slavery in this nation. For thirty years you have waged with its terrible forces. With the Church & State, with Commerce & the Social forces of the land against you, with almost all indeed, against you but Heaven's infinite Law & Justice, you have bravely borne the heat & the burden of the

day, & now, in 1863, you are & come & thus & thank God that a way - different it is true from what you expected & prayed for - yet in a great measure this your cooperation has been opened for the oppressed & go you.

The Slaveholders of our country threw themselves square upon the atrocious principle that man can hold property in man, & with a zeal equalled only by their audacity, made issue with God & his justice, denying the rights of humanity & even striving with their wrath to dethrone the Almighty, & pull God from his throne. As might have been expected, they have signally failed. The very measures they put forth to strengthen their cause has hastened its overthrow. Cotton is not king. Slavery does not rule the land. This is not man's doing but Lords. To him be the thanks.

Affairs are still much out of joint but they are coming into order. Principles, heretofore rejected of men are being acknowledged

names, before misapplied are getting rightly placed. Abolitionists have been derisively called destructive radicals by them who have claimed the more respectable name of conservatives. But people are now seeing that the radical is the conservative. Jesus was a radical yet his principles were "the salt of the earth." Luther was a radical but his movement prevented religion from going to decay. John Adams & John Hancock were radicals yet who, more than they conserved the liberties of the Colonies? So the Abolitionists of the United States, the intensely radical, for they apply the axe to the root of the tree, are also conservative. They have been seeking to preserve in the love of our nation, those principles without which a State rests on a sandy foundation. You will commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of your organization. Surrounded by the cheering signs that this fact is being recognised. Men are coming to perceive also the righteousness

Rev. A. A. Battles,
Nov. 27, 1863. Bangor, Me.

of abolitionism. The black man is getting
to be recognised as a man.
For all this let us thank God & take courage &
continue to work & to pray until we have a
State founded on the principles of Christian
Democracy.

Yours most cordially for the rights of
Man —

From Rev. A. Battles.